

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00006 131517Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SCCT-01 SY-04 /085 W

----- 010685

R 131414Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 793

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 006

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: HOPES GROW FOR PROLONGATION CEASEFIRE.

1. PRESS REPORTS OVER PAST WEEKEND AND MORNING JAN. 13 EXPRESS GROWING OPTIMISM THAT PROVISIONAL IRA WILL PROLONG CEASEFIRE. WHILE LACK OF ATTRIBUTION THESE REPORTS AND TOUGH STATEMENTS OVER WEEKEND BY BELFAST SINN FEIN ORGANIZER SEAMUS LOUGHRAN AND "PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN VICE PRESIDENT" DAVID O'CONNELL SEEM PLACE SPECULATION IN WISHFUL THINKING CATEGORY, THERE NO RPT NO REAL THREAT YET ENUNCIATED THAT VIOLENCE WILL BE RESUMED. MIDNIGHT JAN. 16. CONSENSUS REPORTS IS THAT IRA STILL WAITING FOR BRITISH RESPONSE WHICH EXPECTED IN SPEECH BY NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY OF STATE REES TO COMMONS DURING WEEK. LOUGHRAN RE-EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT HMG IN ORDER GIVE PROVISIONALS TIME CONSIDER WHETHER RESPONSE ADEQUATE PERMIT EXTENSION CEASEFIRE. GOVERNMENT MOVES THUS FAR HAVE TACIT QUALIFIED APPROVAL MOST LOYALIST POLITICAL GROUPS NORTHERN IRELAND SECSTATE REES HELD FURTHER SUCCESSFUL TALKS WITH POLITICIANS JAN. 10.

2. VANGUARD UNIONISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) LEADERS MET SEPARATELY WITH SECSTATE REES JAN. 10 AND SPOKESMEN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00006 131517Z

BOTH GROUPS LATER EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH DISCUSSIONS.

VANGUARD LEADER M.P. WILLIAM CRAIG WHILE REITERATING SKEPTICISM ABOUT IRA MOTIVATIONS IN CALLING CEASEFIRE EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION AT REES ASSURANCES THAT THERE NO RPT NOT NEGOTIATIONS BEING CONDUCTED WITH PROVOS. CRAIG ALSO DESCRIBED REES MANAGEMENT OF CURRENT AFFAIRS AS "SKILLFUL". SDLP LEADER GERRY FITT SAID HIS DELEGATION HAD MADE CLEAR THEIR OPPOSITION TO DETENTION POLICY AND DESCRIBED TALKS AS "VERY CONSTRUCTIVE".

3. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS: (A) IVAN COOPER OF SDLP HAS CHARACTERIZED SECSTATE REES MAIN TRAIT AS INDECISION AND CALLED FOR HIS REPLACEMENT, (B) ALLIANCE PARTY CHIEF WHIP BASIL GLASS ACCUSED DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST LEADER REVEREND IAN PAISLEY OF HYPOCRISY AND POLITICAL BANKRUPTCY AND ATTACKED HIM FOR ATTEMPTING TO ABORT PEACE INITIATIVE OF PROTESTANT CLERGYMEN," (C) PAISLEY AND REPUBLICAN CLUBS EXECUTIVE IN STATEMENTS ATTACKED CARDINAL CONWAY FOR, RESPECTIVELY, ATTEMPTING TO JOCKEY HMG SECURITY FORCES AND NORTHERN PROTESTANTS INTO POSITION WHERE THEY WOULD BE BLAMED FOR ANY BREAKDOWN IN CEASEFIRE AND FOR SUPPORTING HARDLINE BRITISH POLICY IN FACE CEASEFIRE, (D) EFFORTS MOUNTING TO OBTAIN EXERCISE ROYAL PEROGATIVE OF MERCY FOR CONVICTED ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE KILLER GUSTY SPENCE. FAMILY INITIATED EFFORTS ALLEGEDLY DUE SPENCE SICKNESS AND UNIONIST POLITICIAN ROY BRADFORD ON COMEBACK TRAIL HAS VOICED SUPPORT FOR MOVE. SPENCE IS LEADER UVF PRISONERS LONG KESH MAZE PRISON AND HIS RELEASE COULD PROBABLY COVER SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE NUMBER REPUBLICAN DETAINEES.
SPICER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, ARMISTICE, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELFAS00006
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750012-0888
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750158/aaaabyws.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2003 by MarshK0>; APPROVED <17 FEB 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOPES GROW FOR PROLONGATION CEASEFIRE.
TAGS: PINT, UK, IRA, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LABOUR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006